



New York State Correctional Officers & Police Benevolent Association, Inc.

“Keeping New York Safe”

Staff Injured by Inmates at Elmira Correctional Facility

Officer Sustains Fractured Arm, Multiple Weapons Recovered, Several Inmate on Inmate Fights Occur

For Immediate Release

August 13, 2023

Elmira, NY – Only three days after seven inmate on inmate fights occurred over five days at Elmira Correctional Facility, chaos and violence erupted again in the first week of August.

Seven officers and one sergeant were injured during inmate attacks on staff, including one officer who sustained a fractured forearm when an inmate threw a metal bed frame at him, striking him in the arm.

Staff also recovered nine make-shift weapons and nine orange strips believed to be illegal drugs from inmates at the maximum security correctional facility.

On Monday, July 31, staff recovered two weapons and one inmate received 21 sutures to close a wound from an inmate on inmate fight. Staff recovered two sharpened toothbrushes that an inmate had hidden inside his pants after an officer observed objects protruding from his pants. An inmate sustained a laceration to his face consistent with being cut with a weapon after an inmate on inmate fight broke out at one of the facility kiosks. Officers were able to break up the fight quickly, but not before the inmate received 21 sutures at a local hospital.

On Tuesday, August 1, three officers and a sergeant were injured after an inmate attacked them in his cell after staff attempted to move him to another unit. When the inmate refused multiple orders to exit his cell, officers entered the cell. The inmate picked up his metal bed frame and threw it at staff, striking one officer in the arm. OC spray was utilized and the inmate remained combative. Staff used body holds and pulled him from the cell and applied handcuffs. A search of the cell recovered a sharpened nail clipper in his toilet. On the same

day, an officer recovered a sharpened toothbrush during a pat frisk of an inmate for contraband in the mess hall corridor.

On Wednesday, August 2, multiple incidents occurred at the facility, including four officers who sustained injuries after inmates attacked them. The first incident occurred when two officers were injured when they entered a cell when they observed an inmate with a bed sheet tied around his neck. When they entered the cell, the inmate removed the sheet from his neck and attacked the officers. After that planned attack, two make-shift weapons and nine orange strips of an illegal drug were recovered from an inmate on inmate fight and a separate cell search. The third incident was an inmate on inmate fight, with one inmate armed with two make-shift weapons in each hand. Officers were able to break up the fight quickly but were injured in the process. A third weapon was recovered after the inmate discarded it in a holding cell.

On Saturday, August 5, one officer sustained a laceration to his inner lip when an inmate punched him in the mouth when the officer attempted to pat frisk the inmate for contraband in the gym corridor. With the assistance of two other officers, the inmate was quickly subdued and placed in handcuffs and removed from the corridor. Later that day, at evening recreation, two inmates began exchanging punches with another inmate. Staff gave orders to stop fighting. One inmate complied, as the other two continued to fight. OC spray was utilized and was effective. Once compliant, the three inmates were escorted from recreation.

“Needless to say, the violence at Elmira needs to be addressed immediately. On July 21, one officer was sent to the hospital after being attacked by an inmate. Between July 24 and July 28, there were seven inmate on inmate fights, with multiple inmates cut with weapons. Now, in just a short five day span, we had seven officers and one sergeant injured at the hands of inmates, with one officer sustaining a fractured arm, which will keep him out of work for months. There is no end in sight to the violence at Elmira and every other prison in the state. We can thank the State Legislators who supported and voted for the ridiculous HALT Act which has not only made it dangerous for staff, but inmates who conform to the rules as well. I hope that as they enjoy the last month of summer, they begin to realize the colossal mistake they made and when they come back to Albany make it a priority to fix it. Sadly, I doubt that will ever occur.” - Stated Kenny Gold, NYSCOP